

WATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT IMPACT SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

Tuesday, June-3-03, 2:00-4:00 PM

**at the Offices of the RI Economic Policy Council
Daval Square, Building A, Third Floor
Providence, RI**

Present: Judy Benedict, Gary Crosby, Beth Collins, Rich Blodgett, Julie Lundgren, Russ Chateauf. (Kathy Crawley came at 4PM to answer questions).

Status assessment –Taking stock of what we have learned, what do we most want to accomplish through our subcommittee report?

- Achieve a balance in addressing the issues. Stay on track with Water Resource Board objectives
- We want to step back and look at the big picture of impacts from a systems point of view.
- We worked really hard to identify significant aquatic resources. How will this work get used? We need a process to take strategic economic, environmental, and residential needs into account in water management planning going forward.
- Answer question of why water conservation is important. Identify opportunities for conservation. Quantify the range of domestic water consumption.
- We need to enumerate environmental impacts and not assume that other committees are covering the topic. The Stream Flow Committee is not evaluating the environmental impacts of stream flow depletion, for example. We can excerpt summary information from the Costanza articles. (Gary agreed to do this and Russ agreed to send him more materials on environmental impacts).
- We want to encourage policy makers to be very proactive in water management so that 20 years from now, we can still site another Amgen and our forests are still healthy. I don't want our flexibility to pursue strategic economic opportunities to be diminished by timid water resource management or our most diverse habitats to be diminished because we couldn't say "no" to low priority development.
- We should discuss issues of many private wells vs. larger systems. The consequences are not obvious. Russ thinks private domestic wells are not a big issue because 99.9% of private wells discharge into the ground. The bigger issues are interbasin transfer and consumptive uses.
- We want to discuss opportunities to change future policies to reduce impacts from development. Amgen is a really interesting case study. The wrong incentives are in place from a standpoint of water supply and environmental impacts. To change that you would need strong policies and coordination among the utilities, state, and municipalities. Amgen is a big water user. They will use 1 million gallons per day. Amgen is located in the Big River Aquifer. An ISDN system would be preferable, but more costly. It would take a year or more for ISDS discharge to make it to a wellhead. We need to look 20 years out at costs (direct and opportunity costs). West Warwick and Coventry are vying for the three new miles of big sewer line built with EDC and Amgen money within 6 months. Both options result in out-of-basin transfer. DEM doesn't make decisions about who

gets the wastewater. Did the Water Resource Board interact with the local community in any way about the development in the area? We don't know the whole story, but the WRB allowed Amgen to construct a temporary 1600 car parking lot on WRB land.

What has been done? Redefine deliverables -- Prioritization of remaining tasks

- Russ, Kelly, and Gary met last Friday and are working on writing up their section. Russ distributed an outline titled "Importance of design decisions in water supply and water demand impacts."
 - The heading "Alternatives to consumptive uses" will be broadened to "Conservation."
 - Prov Water studied the issue of atmospheric deposition impact on water and found it to be insignificant for Scituate Reservoir.
 - Soils have the potential to modify storm water and make runoff cleaner.
 - Will look at case studies to illustrate the potential of water conservation. Examples: converting homes to green homes, green strip mall conversions
 - There are a number of good golf course water reuse examples: Jamestown sprays treated effluent on golf courses, Carnegie Abbey proposes to reduce fertilizer use on the lawn by watering with treated effluent from condos. This is similar to Richmond Commons case study.
- Rich is writing up the supply and demand section.
 - Rich will get water use data by quarter or month

Timeline:

The timeline in the agenda is aggressive. The PowerPoint needs to be done by June 26, but the group wants more time to finalize the written report. If we are comfortable distributing a written report on June 26th will be considered a preliminary draft.

- Compile first draft by June 16 and circulate within the subcommittee
- Get all materials for inclusion in report to Gary Crosby at the Economic Policy Council by June 19
- Circulate the PowerPoint and complete draft report to subcommittee on June 23 for comment
- June 26 PowerPoint presentation to committee of the whole. Possibly distribute preliminary draft report for comment.

How can we make sure the report reflects the thinking of the subcommittee?

- The report will be written in sections by individuals and small groups and then combined together.
- Lets ask every member of the subcommittee to sign off on the final report. That will encourage people to read and critique in thoroughly – resulting in a better report.
- We may need one more meeting to discuss the draft after it is written. We should plan on a meeting in early July.

What are we expected to produce?

- Kathy Crawley: The WRB will produce one report with an executive summary that ties together all the committee work. The subcommittee reports will be attached. There are no format restrictions for our report.